

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY NEA/EGY:GRBEYER/IO/ML:PWKRIEBEL

APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY

NEA - MR. DAY

NEA - MR. ATHERTON

IO:SWLEWIS

EA:WGLEYSTEEN (KOREA ONLY)

S/S - RGAMBLE

S STAFF - DPASSAGE

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O R 300042Z JUL 76 ZFF6

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 188799

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EG

SUBJECT: COLOMBO NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT: MESSAGE FROM THE
SECRETARY

1. PLEASE DELIVER THE FOLLOWING FROM THE SECRETARY TO
FAHMY:

2. BEGIN TEXT:

(A) DEAR ISMAIL: THERE ARE TWO ISSUES LIKELY TO BE CON-
SIDERED AT INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS PRIOR TO THE UN
GENERAL ASSEMBLY THIS FALL, AND AT THE ASSEMBLY ITSELF, THAT
ARE OF PARTICULAR IMPORTANCE TO THE UNITED STATES AND THAT I
WOULD LIKE TO DISCUSS WITH YOU WELL IN ADVANCE OF THEIR
ACTUALLY ARISING. THESE TWO ISSUES, FAMILIAR FROM PREVIOUS
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GENERAL ASSEMBLIES, ARE PUERTO RICO AND KOREA. I AM SURE

YOU FULLY APPRECIATE WHY THESE QUESTIONS ARE OF SUCH SENSITIVITY TO US, BUT I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE USEFUL NONE-THELESS TO REVIEW THEM AGAIN FOR YOU IN THE SPIRIT OF COOPERATION BETWEEN OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS.

(B) WITH RESPECT TO PUERTO RICO, OUR POLICY IS BASED ON COMPLETE ACCEPTANCE OF PUERTO RICO'S RIGHT OF SELF-DETERMINATION. THE PEOPLE OF PUERTO RICO APPROVED THEIR CONSTITUTION AND COMMONWEALTH STATUS IN 1952 AND

REAFFIRMED THAT CHOICE IN A 1967 REFERENDUM. THE UNITED NATIONS EXPLICITLY RECOGNIZED THE SELF-GOVERNING STATUS OF PUERTO RICO AND REMOVED PUERTO RICO FROM THE LIST OF NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES IN 1953. WE ASSURED THE UNITED NATIONS AT THAT TIME THAT, IF THE PUERTO RICAN LEGISLATURE SHOULD ADOPT A RESOLUTION IN FAVOR OF INDEPENDENCE AT ANY TIME IN THE FUTURE, THE PRESIDENT WOULD RECOMMEND TO THE CONGRESS THAT INDEPENDENCE BE GRANTED.

(C) IN VIEW OF THIS, DISCUSSION OF PUERTO RICO'S STATUS BY ANY INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OR ASSEMBLY WOULD BE AN UNWARRANTED INTRUSION INTO THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF THE UNITED STATES AND OF PUERTO RICO. THE UNITED STATES CAME INTO POSSESSION OF VARIOUS NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES AT THE BEGINNING OF THIS CENTURY AND EACH HAS BEEN ABLE TO CHOOSE THE COURSE IT WISHES TO FOLLOW. THE PHILIPPINES CHOSE INDEPENDENCE (1947); HAWAII, STATEHOOD; AND PUERTO RICO, A SPECIAL COMMONWEALTH RELATIONSHIP WITH THE U.S. WHICH CONTINUES TO EVOLVE. SO LONG AS THE PEOPLE OF PUERTO RICO WISH TO CONTINUE THIS RELATIONSHIP WITH THE UNITED STATES, ANY OUTSIDE DISCUSSION OF THIS RELATIONSHIP CAN ONLY BE OFFENSIVE TO US AND THE PEOPLE OF PUERTO RICO. PRESIDENT FORD MADE THIS POINT WITH PARTICULAR EMPHASIS WHEN HE VISITED PUERTO RICO IN JUNE WHEN HE SAID THAT THOSE WHO MIGHT BE INCLINED TO INTERVENE IN OUR FREELY DETERMINED RELATIONS SHOULD KNOW THAT SUCH AN ACT WOULD BE CONSIDERED INTERVENTION IN THE DOMESTIC AFFAIRS OF PUERTO RICO AND THE UNITED STATES. I AM SURE THAT YOU WILL UNDERSTAND OUR STRONG FEELINGS IN THIS MATTER.

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(D) WITH REGARD TO KOREA, WE DO NOT, AND WE BELIEVE MOST U.N. MEMBERS DO NOT, WISH TO SEE THE KOREAN ISSUE BECOME AGAIN A WASTEFUL AND CONTENTIOUS CONTROVERSY USELESSLY DIVERTING THE ENERGIES OF THE UNGA. HOWEVER, IF IMPORTANT GROUPS WITHIN THE U.N. MEMBERSHIP ACCEDE TO PRESSURES TO ENDORSE THE NORTH KOREAN POSITION--SUCH AS ABOLISHING THE ARMISTICE MACHINERY OR ALTERING THE

MILITARY BALANCE, WHICH TOGETHER HAVE PRESERVED PEACE FOR 23 YEARS--IT IS ALMOST INEVITABLE THAT WE WILL BE FACED WITH A CHALLENGE IN THE UNGA TO WHICH WE WILL BE OBLIGED TO RESPOND ENERGETICALLY. FOR THIS REASON, I HOPE YOU WILL FIND IT POSSIBLE TO SUPPORT THE POSITION THAT STATEMENTS IN INTERNATIONAL FORUMS ON THIS ISSUE EMPHASIZE ONLY

THE NEED FOR A CONCILIATORY POSTURE BY THE PARTIES DIRECTLY CONCERNED AND THE RESUMPTION OF THE DIALOGUE TO WHICH THEY AGREED IN 1972. ON JULY 22 I PUBLICLY RENEWED MY PROPOSAL FOR A CONFERENCE OF INTERESTED PARTIES ON KOREA SUGGESTING THAT IT TAKE PLACE THIS FALL AND THAT ARRANGEMENTS BE STARTED IMMEDIATELY. I HOPE YOU WILL GIVE CAREFUL AND SYMPATHETIC CONSIDERATION TO THIS PROPOSAL AS IT MAY RELATE TO FUTURE INTERNATIONAL CONSIDERATION OF THIS ISSUE. AMBASSADOR EILTS WILL PROVIDE YOU WITH THE TEXT OF MY PROPOSAL.

(E) SINCE THERE IS WITHIN THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE UN A WIDE RANGE OF VIEWS ON PUERTO RICO AND KOREA, I WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR ASSISTANCE IN PREVENTING CONTENTIOUS POSITIONS FROM EMERGING ON EITHER ISSUE AT COMING MEETINGS, IN THE FIRST CASE BY AVOIDANCE OF THE ISSUE ALTOGETHER AND IN THE SECOND BY THE ADVOCACY OF A CONSTRUCTIVE MINIMAL POSITION WHICH CAN BE THE BASIS FOR CONCILIATION.

(F) I WOULD VERY MUCH APPRECIATE YOUR GIVING THESE ISSUES YOUR PERSONAL ATTENTION, AND, AS ALWAYS, I LOOK FORWARD TO ANY THOUGHTS YOU MAY HAVE CONCERNING THEM. WITH WARM REGARDS, HENRY A. KISSINGER. END TEXT.

3. DEPARTMENT WISHES TO TREAT FOREGOING AS PRIVILEGED, CONFIDENTIAL

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PRIVATE CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN SECRETARY AND RECIPIENT. EMBASSY REQUESTED TO DISCOURAGE GOE FROM RELEASE IF ISSUE IS RAISED.

4. YOU SHOULD HAVE PRESIDENT'S PUERTO RICO SPEECH (STATE 159509) AVAILABLE IN EVENT THERE IS INTEREST IN SOURCE OF PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENT TO WHICH MESSAGE REFERS.

KISSINGER

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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